

Chapter 8
ENLISTED COMMISSIONING PROGRAM (ECP)

1. References

- (a) OPNAVINST 1160.6A
- (b) BUPERSINST 1780.1
- (c) MILPERSMAN 1530-010

2. Program Information

a. The basic Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP) provides a full-time opportunity for outstanding enlisted personnel to complete requirements for a baccalaureate degree and to earn a commission in the Unrestricted Line. ECP is open to eligible active duty Navy enlisted personnel who have previous college credit but less than a baccalaureate degree. Prospective candidates must have a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of fully transferable college credit which can be applied to a selected major of study towards a completion of a baccalaureate degree.

b. The ECP program offers several options for prospective candidates which include basic ECP, Aviation Option ECP (AECP), Nuclear Option ECP (NECP), and Civil Engineer Corps Option ECP (ECP-CEC). Applicants interested in AECP, NECP or ECP-CEC should review chapters 9, 10, or 11, respectively.

c. ECP participants are eligible to complete their baccalaureate degree at any NROTC-affiliated university (Appendix B provides a listing of NROTC-affiliated universities). Selectees will be ordered to CNET-assigned universities following completion of the Naval Science Institute (NSI) at Newport, Rhode Island. NSI program is an intensive 6 1/2-week academic and physical training program where the ECP participant completes the first two years of the Naval Science courses required for commissioning through the NROTC unit upon degree completion.

d. ECP students receive full pay and allowances, based on their enlisted paygrade, and are eligible for advancement

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OPNAVINST 1420.1

while in college. It is highly recommended that all requirements for the next advancement exam be completed prior to detaching from present command.

e. Program applicants should review reference (a) for specific details regarding Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) eligibility. All special duty assignment pay ceases upon transfer to NSI and the NROTC-affiliated university.

f. ECP students are responsible for all educational expenses incurred while participating in the program including tuition, fees, and books. If eligible, students may use the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) or Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) educational benefits; however, students are not eligible for benefits under the Tuition Assistance Program. Questions regarding use of MGIB benefits should be directed to the Veterans Administration Regional Office. Eligibility requirements for VEAP and MGIB educational benefits are delineated in reference (b).

g. Selectees are required to complete degree requirements for non-technical degrees in not more than 30 calendar months, or technical degrees in not more than 36 calendar months. Program participants attend school on a full-time, year-round basis beginning in the fall of the fiscal year selected. A technical degree is defined as: mathematics, physics, any of the engineering disciplines, or any of the hard sciences (e.g., Chemistry, BioChemistry, Physical Science, and Oceanography). A non-technical degree is any other degree program applicable to URL. Advanced academic standing may be granted at the discretion of the individual university; however, students so advanced will be expected to complete degree requirements in a proportionately reduced period of time.

h. Upon completion of a baccalaureate degree and NROTC commissioning requirements, ECP participants are commissioned as Ensign, United States Naval Reserve with an obligated service consistent with the assigned warfare community.

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3. Eligibility Requirements

a. U.S. citizenship is required and cannot be waived.

b. Age requirement. Applicants must be at least 22 years of age by 1 November in the year in which applying for the program and be able to complete degree requirements and be commissioned prior to the 31st birthday. Waivers will not be considered. Applicants who would exceed age restrictions prior to completing the normal 30 - 36 month ECP tour but are able to complete all degree and commissioning requirements prior to their reaching their 31st birthday, must include with the application a degree plan from their chosen university.

c. Moral character and conduct. Applicants must be of good moral character and have no courts-martial conviction or civilian felony conviction. Have no record of disciplinary action under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or conviction by civil court for misdemeanors (except minor traffic violations) during the three years preceding application for the program. Any substantiated drug use or alcohol related incidents, while in an enlisted status, is considered an aspect of an individual's professional performance and judgement and will be considered when assessing future leadership potential.

d. Applicants must be serving on active duty in the U.S. Navy or Naval Reserve, or Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) and have completed at least four years of active duty service in any branch of the Armed Forces as of 1 September of the fiscal year for which applied. Waivers will be considered for up to six months of the minimum time-in-service requirement. Applicants not meeting the minimum time-in-service requirement are encouraged to investigate the NROTC Scholarship Program.

e. Performance record. Have a superb performance record as well as strong academic potential.

f. Education and Scholastic Aptitude Requirements.

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(1) Have completed sufficient undergraduate course work, no later than 1 December of the application year, to complete requirements for a non-technical degree in 30 months or a technical degree in 36 months. Applicants for both technical and non-technical degrees must have 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of fully transferable credits from a regionally accredited college for program eligibility. Waivers for insufficient credits will not be granted.

(2) A transferable credit must have a grade of "C" or better. A "pass/fail" or "SAT" grade is not acceptable. Only traditional credits obtained through regionally accredited colleges or universities are considered fully transferable. Non-traditional credits, such as military service and service school credits, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) courses, vocational/technical school credits, correspondence courses other than PACE, etc., are not considered fully transferable credits for the purpose of qualifying for this program. After entry into ECP, non-traditional credits should be utilized to obtain advanced academic standing to the maximum extent permitted by the university enrolled. Normally, credits obtained from foreign institutes are accepted; however, not all are considered fully transferable.

(3) Have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale. GPA is based on grades for all college level courses taken. Waivers will be considered for those applicants who are academically capable of earning baccalaureate degrees and who show potential for successful careers as commissioned officers.

(4) Applicants must submit SAT or ACT scores, taken within three years prior to 1 January of the application year. Although there is no minimum score requirement, applicants with less than 950 for the SAT (math/verbal), or 45 for the ACT (math/English) may be limited in choice of university due to college or university admission requirements. Applicants may submit these scores by (1) providing a copy of the SAT/ACT test scores with their application or (2) requesting the testing agency forward test scores directly to CNET by using

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Code 0493 for both assessment tests. Applicants must take the SAT or ACT not later than 1 October of the application year to ensure CNET receipt prior to the convening of the selection board. Applicants are encouraged to contact their Command Career Counselor or Navy College Office for information on local availability of the SAT and ACT.

(5) Individuals who have already obtained their baccalaureate degree are not eligible for ECP and should apply directly for Officer Candidate School (OCS). See Chapter 7 for OCS application instructions.

g. Physical qualification for URL Commissioning. Must be certified as physically qualified by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for appointment in the URL. Applicants must notify Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) (OTE6/0841) of any change to their medical status; e.g. broken bones, surgery, pregnancy, etc., which occur after the physical examination is completed. The most common disqualifying conditions for URL commissioning include defective color vision, eyesight uncorrectable to 20/20, and applicants out of height, weight, and body fat standards. Applicants must meet Navy height, weight, and body fat standards at time of application and maintain these standards after selection and through commissioning.

h. Recommended by their commanding officer.

4. Application Submission Procedures and Deadlines. Application Procedures.

a. Applicants must submit the Officer Programs Application with all required attachments via their chain of command prior to 1 November of the application year.

b. Additional documents required for the application are identified in the Appendix to this chapter. To ensure your application is complete, review the application checklist provided as Appendix H.

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5. Information and Guidance for Commanding Officers. Upon receipt of an application the commanding officer will:

a. Interview and provide a recommendation using the Commanding Officer's Recommendation form included in the Officer Programs Application. Ensure that the applicant meets all eligibility criteria and identify and make recommendations in cases where waivers are required. The CO should rank applicants, if there are more than one applicant from that command.

c. Forward applications to:

Chief of Naval Education and Training
CNET OTE6/0841-ECP
250 Dallas Street
Pensacola, FL 32508-5220

6. Information and Guidance for Applicant Interviews

a. A minimum of three officers' interviews is required. Interviewers must use the Interviewer's Appraisal Sheet (NAVCRUIT 1100/13), provided in Chapter 2, Officer Programs Application.

b. Interviews are to be conducted simultaneously by a panel of officers. The officers conducting the interview should be Unrestricted Line (URL) designators and 0-3 and above.

7. Medical Examination Information. Applicants are required to submit a completed Report of Physical examination (SF 88) and Report of Medical History (SF 93) with the program application. Applicant must ensure the following is included:

a. Results of a current chest x-ray if there is a history of pulmonary disease or of smoking.

b. Results of a current Electrocardiogram (EKG).

c. Height and weight or a determination of body fat

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percentage if member exceeds Navy height/weight standards.

d. An eye refraction for applicants with less than 20/20 vision uncorrected. Eyesight must be correctable to 20/20.

e. A Farnsworth Lantern test must be administered to determine color vision. Defective color vision is disqualifying for URL commissioning. No waivers will be considered.

f. Intraocular Tension must be completed and documented.

g. All female applicants must have the results of a Papanicolaou's Stain (PAP) and Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG) test documented on the SF 88.

h. Regardless of date of physical exam, selectees/ alternates will be required to have an HIV test dated on or after 1 July of the application year.

i. Applicants must meet all physical qualifications for commissioning in the URL.

8. Administrative Information

a. Change of address. Applicants must notify the CNET (OTE6/0841) in writing of any change in mailing address.

b. Service Obligation

(1) Selectees must have a six-year active service obligation. Members who do not have the requisite minimum obligated service must agree to extend their enlistment utilizing NAVPERS 1070/621 or NAVPERS 1070/622. Selectees are authorized to reenlist more than one year early if they are unable to satisfy obligated service requirement with an extension of 48 months or less. The reason for extension of enlistment should state "Training (ECP)." The following statement of understanding should be included with the reason for extension of enlistment: "I understand that upon

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admission to a university under this program, this agreement becomes binding and may not thereafter be canceled except as provided by the MILPERSMAN."

(2) If disenrolled from ECP, or if an officer candidate declines to accept an appointment as a commissioned officer, they will remain in their enlisted rate in the Navy or Naval Reserve and be made available for general assignment. Disenrolled members will be required to serve time remaining on their six-year obligation.

(3) Upon commissioning and initial appointment, officers are required to serve on active duty for a minimum of four years.

c. Withdrawal of Application or Recommendation

(1) An applicant may withdraw from consideration any time prior to selection board convening. A selectee wishing to withdraw should decline transfer orders and notify the Chief of Naval Education and Training (see paragraph 9 for address and phone number).

(2) Commanding Officers must notify CNET immediately of circumstances that would affect the member's continued program eligibility. These circumstances include a marked drop in overall performance, civilian or military violations, which have resulted or have the potential to result in conviction or imposition of punishment, or other circumstances which would affect the individual's program eligibility.

d. Transfer Policy

(1) ECP selects, receiving PCS orders for execution prior to transfer to the NSI, should not be transferred. If a transfer directive is received, the commanding officer should notify the orders originating authority that the individual has been selected for ECP and the orders should be cancelled.

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(2) The Commander, Navy Personnel Command, will issue transfer directives. Commanding officers shall ensure that no ECP select is transferred without the required obligated service. Transfer directives are normally issued after determination of physical qualification for commissioning as an Unrestricted Line officer and admission to the CNET assigned university.

9. Inquiries. Information and questions concerning the Basic and Aviation ECP should be addressed to:

Chief of Naval Education and Training
CNET OTE6/0841
250 Dallas Street
Pensacola, FL 32508-5220
(850) 452-4941 ext 317/DSN 922

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